

# 2002 Navy Quality of Life (QOL) Survey: Shipboard Life Results\*

**Presented at Navy Workforce  
Research and Analysis  
Conference**

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\*The opinions expressed are those of the authors. They are not official and do not represent the views of the U.S. Navy Department.

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# Overview

- **Shipboard habitability and ship design**
- **Background**
- **Survey and survey methodology**
- **QOL areas addressed in survey**
- **Shipboard life results**
- **Summary and recommendations**



# Background

- **1997: Naval Inspector General recommends that Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) assess shipboard habitability and its impact on retention**
- **1998: CNP commissions Navy QOL Survey to assess QOL content areas including shipboard habitability**
- **1999 Navy QOL Survey conducted**
- **2002 Navy QOL Survey conducted**



# Survey and Survey Methodology

**NPRST**



- **Survey**

**Overall satisfaction with 15 QOL areas, such as shipboard life, current job, personal health, and leisure & recreation**

**Satisfaction with aspects of QOL areas and sub-areas (“topics”)**

- **Method**

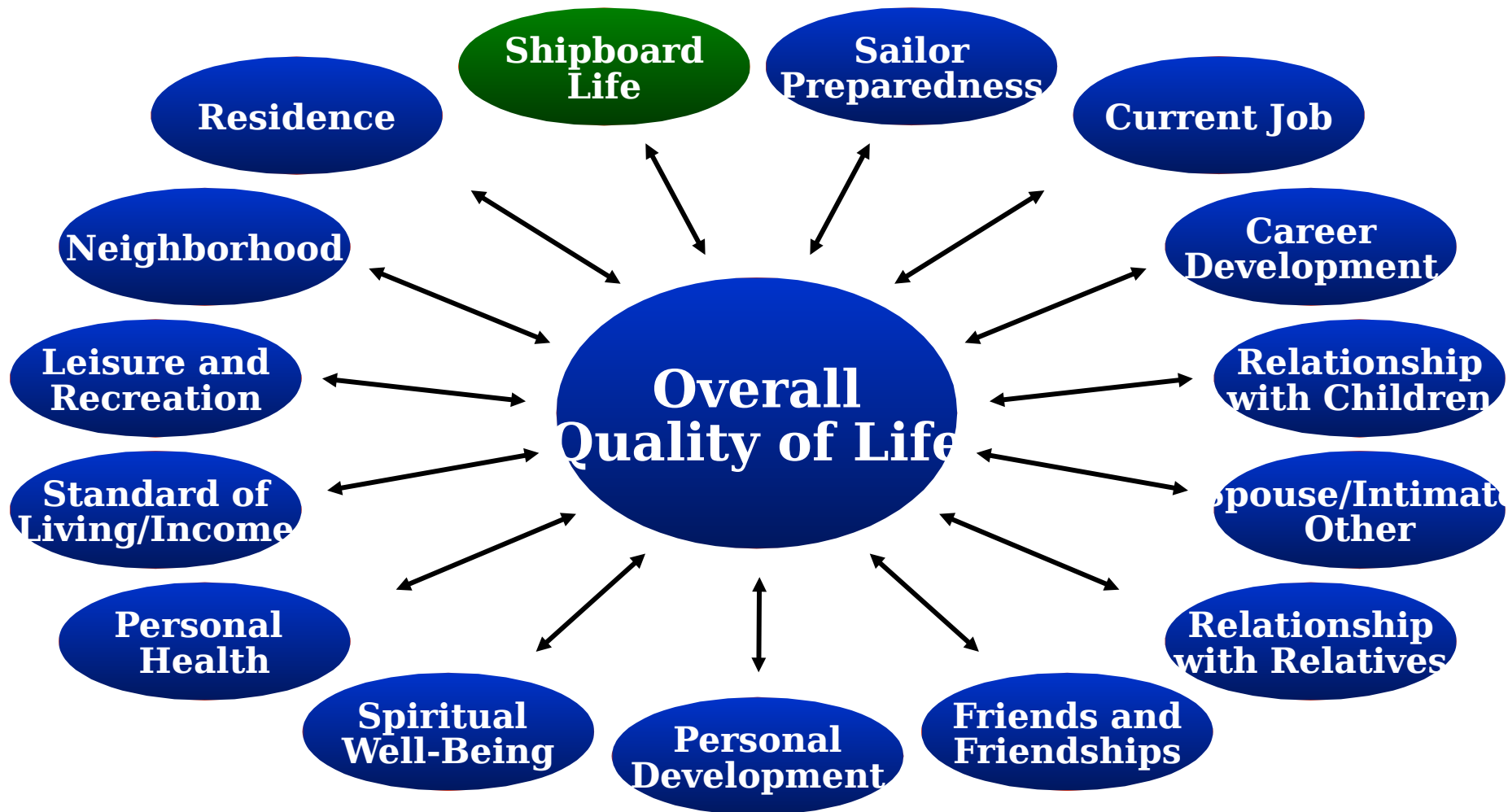
**Drew a representative random sample of active-duty Navy personnel (N = 16,833)**

**Collected data from April--Aug 2002**

**5,114 surveys completed (31% response rate—similar to other Navy-wide surveys)**

**Statistically weighted responses to ensure results representative of the Navy**

# QOL Areas Addressed in Survey



# Relationship Between Satisfaction with QOL Area and Satisfaction with Military Life NPRST

QOL Area	Correlations
<b>Shipboard Life</b>	<b>.62</b>
Career Development	.49
Current Job	.48
Leisure and Recreation	.46
Standard of Living/Income	
Personal Development	.45
Residence	
Preparedness to Do Your Job	
Neighborhood	.33
Relationships with Relatives	
Friends and Friendships	
Spiritual Well-Being	.29
Personal Health	.27
Relationship with Your Children	.25
Marriage/Intimate Relationship	.24

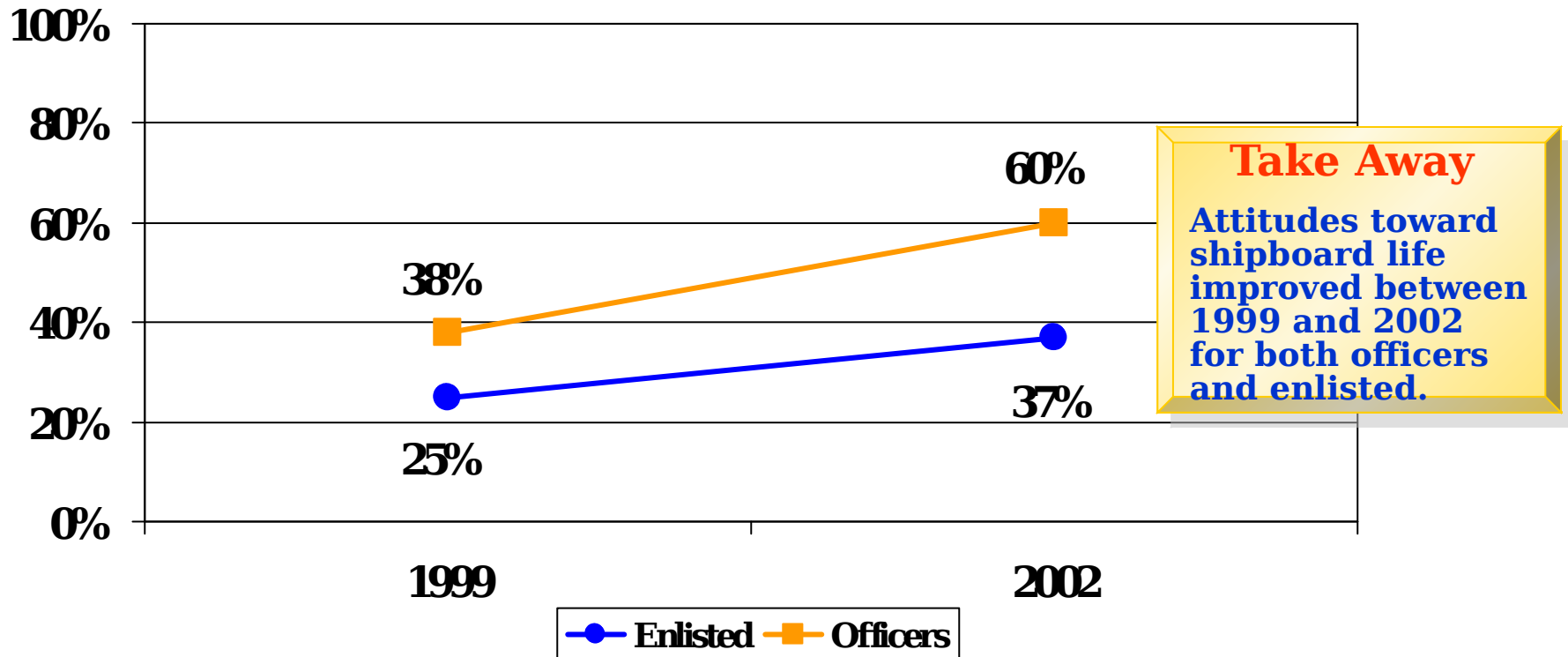
## Take Away

Satisfaction with **shipboard life** was most associated with satisfaction with military life. Sailors who were satisfied with shipboard life were also satisfied with military life.

# Satisfaction with Shipboard Life

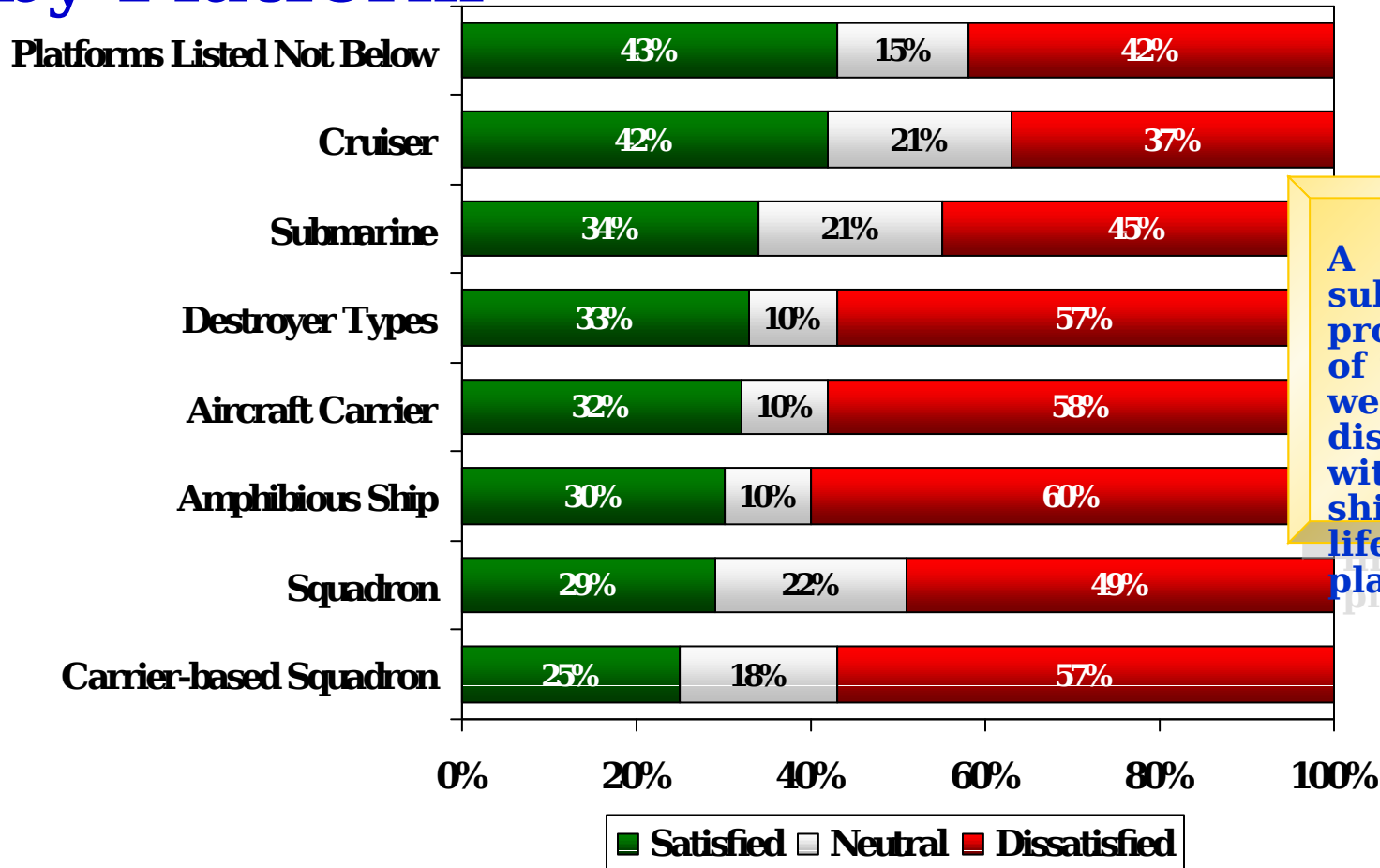
NPRST

## Percentage of Sailors that were Satisfied



# Overall Reactions to Shipboard Life by Platform

NPRST



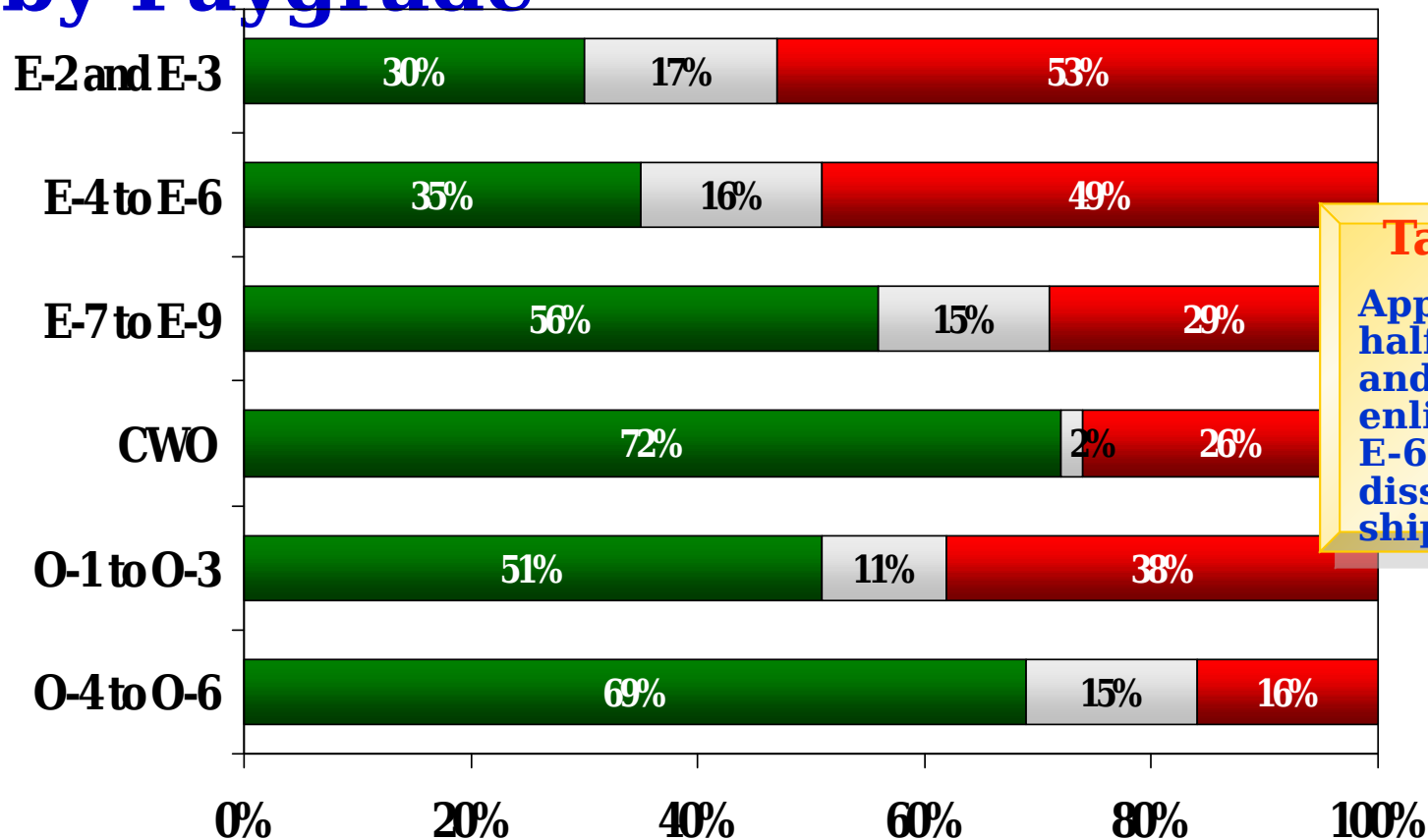
**Take  
Away**

A substantial proportion of Sailors were dissatisfied with shipboard life on all platforms.



# Overall Reactions to Shipboard Life by Paygrade

NPRST



## Take Away

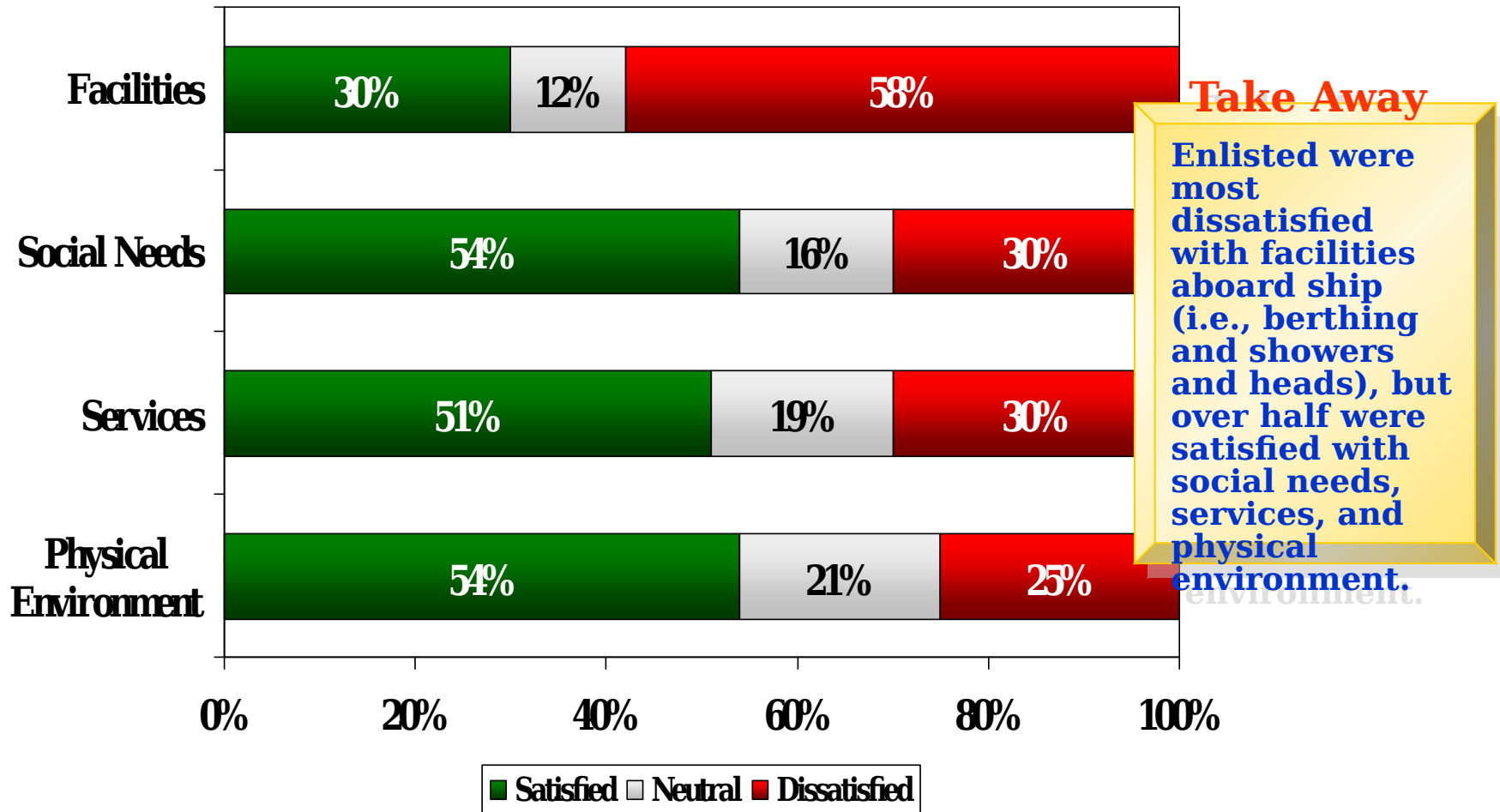
Approximately half of junior and mid-grade enlisted (E-2 to E-6) were dissatisfied with shipboard life.

*\*Only 50 CWOs completed survey.*

■ Satisfied ■ Neutral ■ Dissatisfied

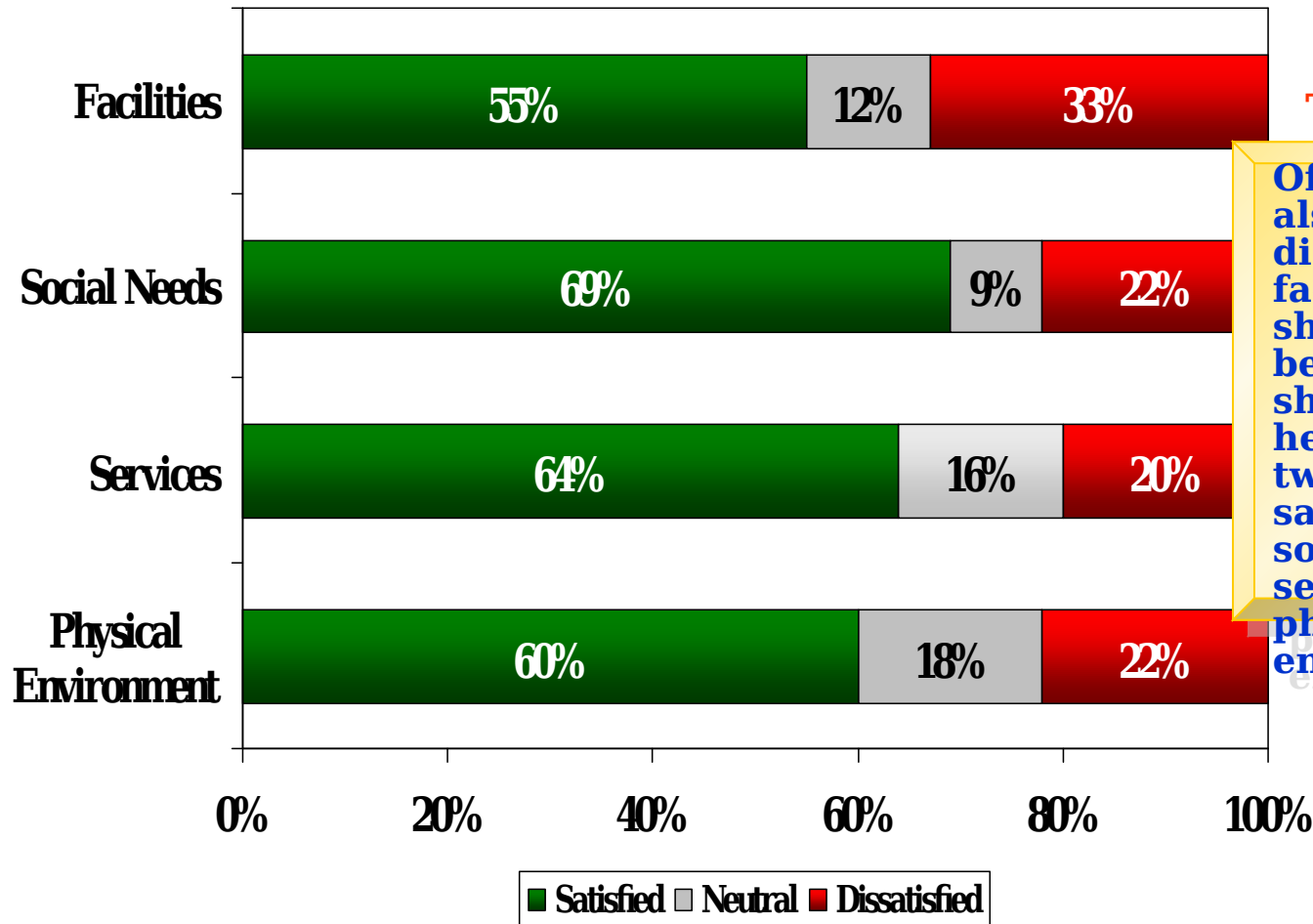
# Enlisted Reactions to Specific Shipboard Topics

NPRST



# Officer Reactions to Specific Shipboard Topics

NPRST

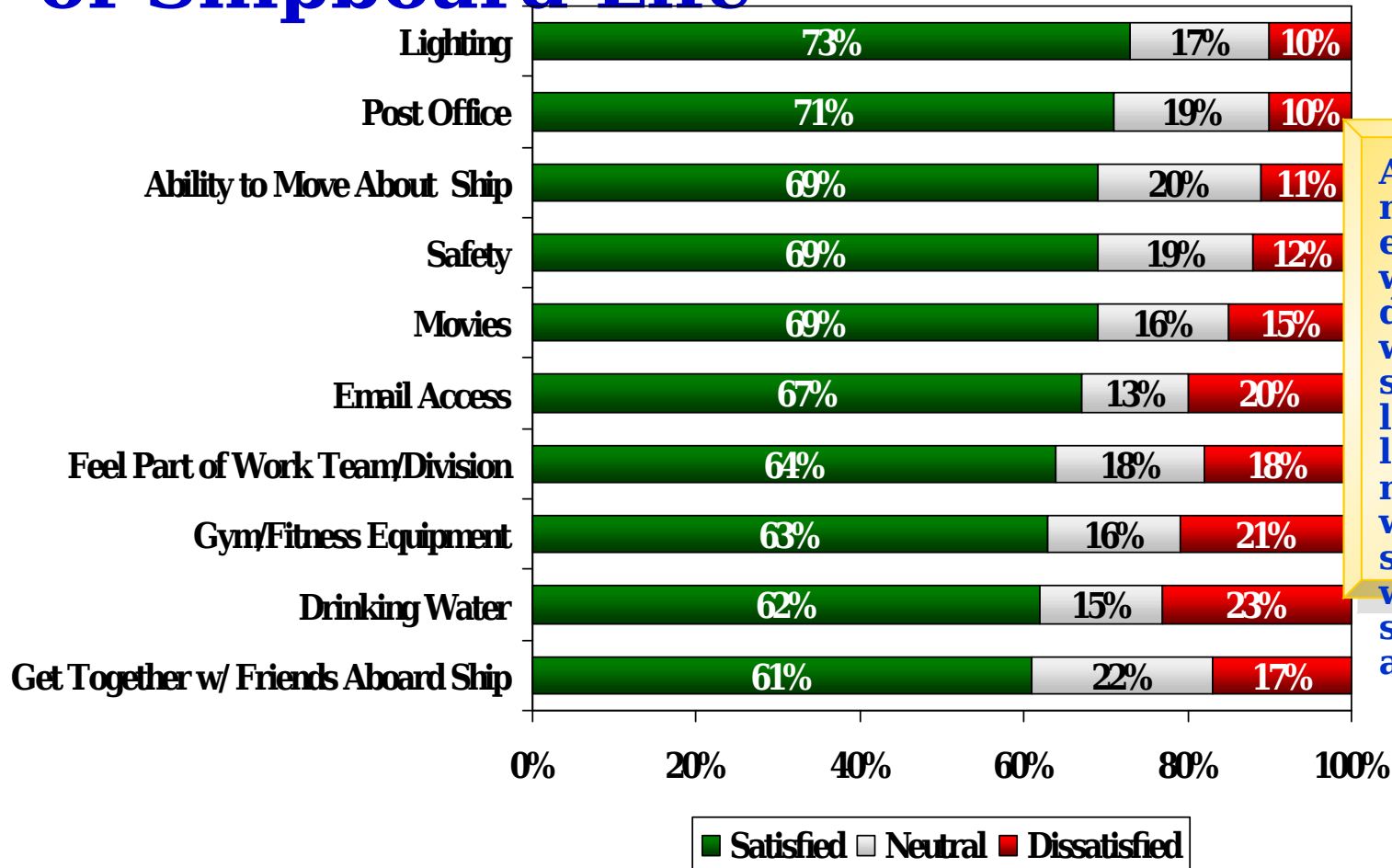


## Take Away

Officers were also most dissatisfied with facilities aboard ship (i.e., berthing and showers and heads, but about two-thirds were satisfied with social needs, services, and physical environment.

# Enlisted: Most *Satisfying* Aspects of Shipboard Life

NPRST

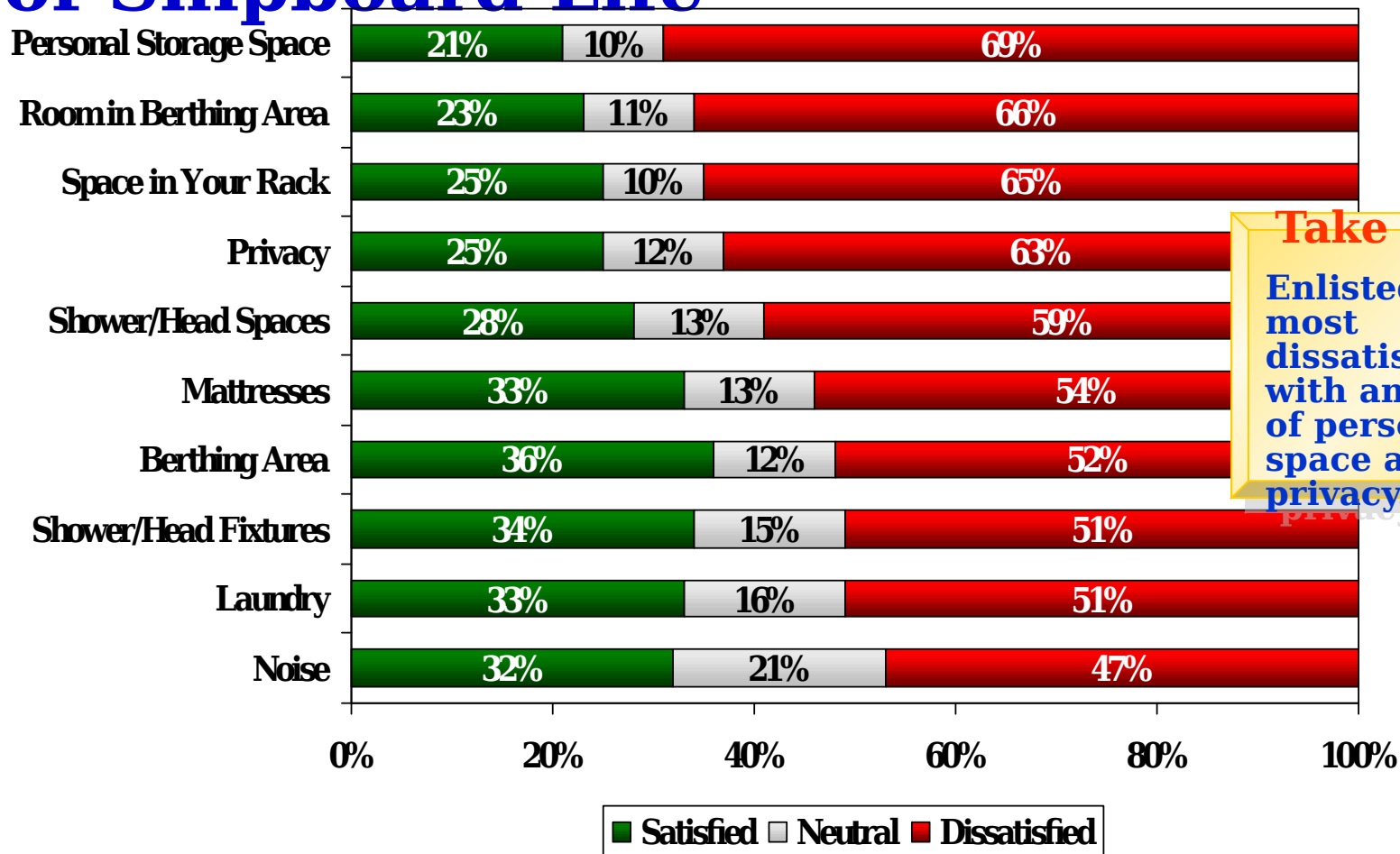


**Take  
Away**

Although many enlisted were dissatisfied with shipboard life overall, large majorities were satisfied with specific aspects.

# Enlisted: Most *Dissatisfying* Aspects of Shipboard Life

NPRST

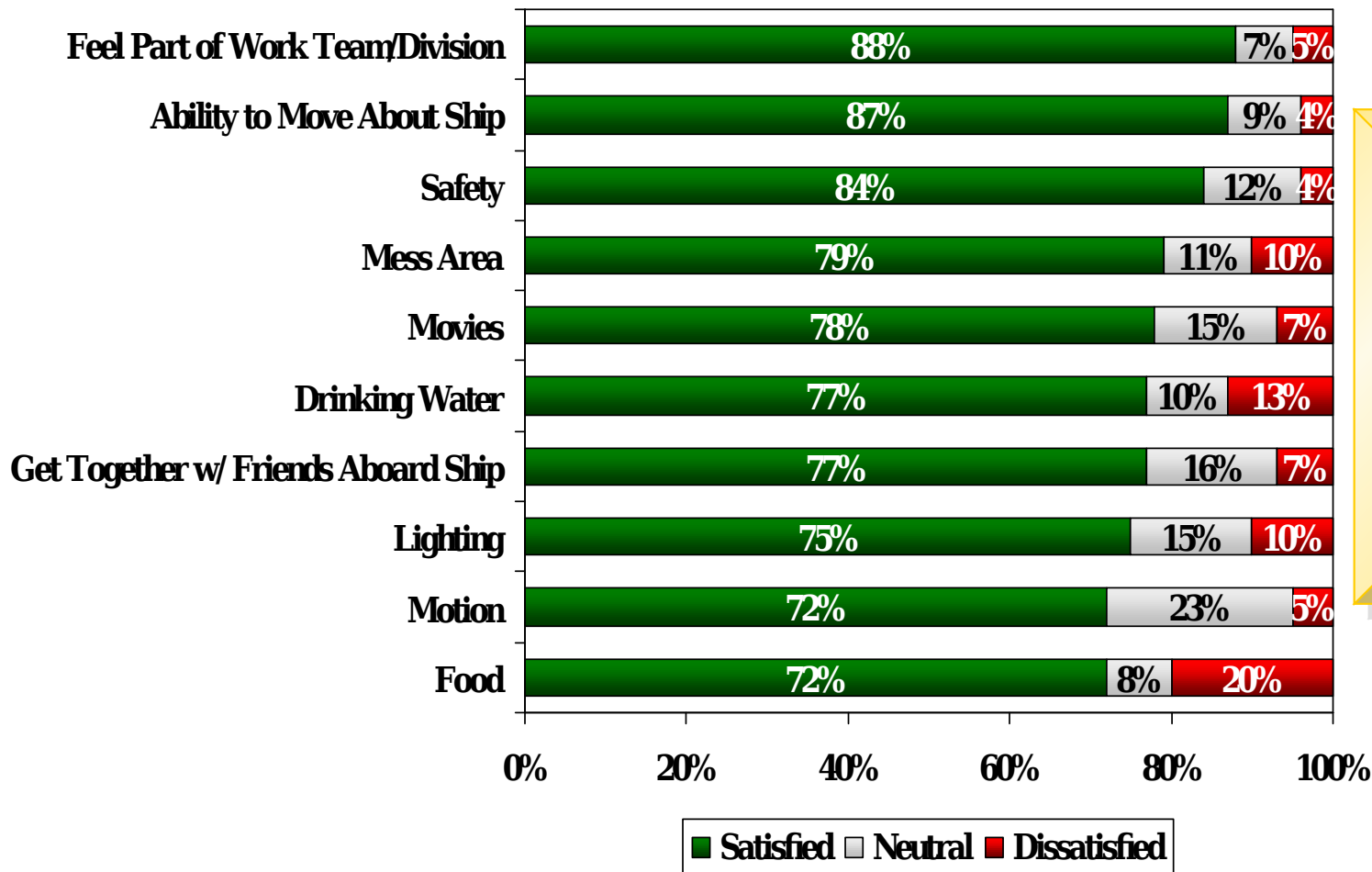


**Take Away**

Enlisted were most dissatisfied with amount of personal space and privacy.

# Officers: Most *Satisfying* Aspects of Shipboard Life

NPRST

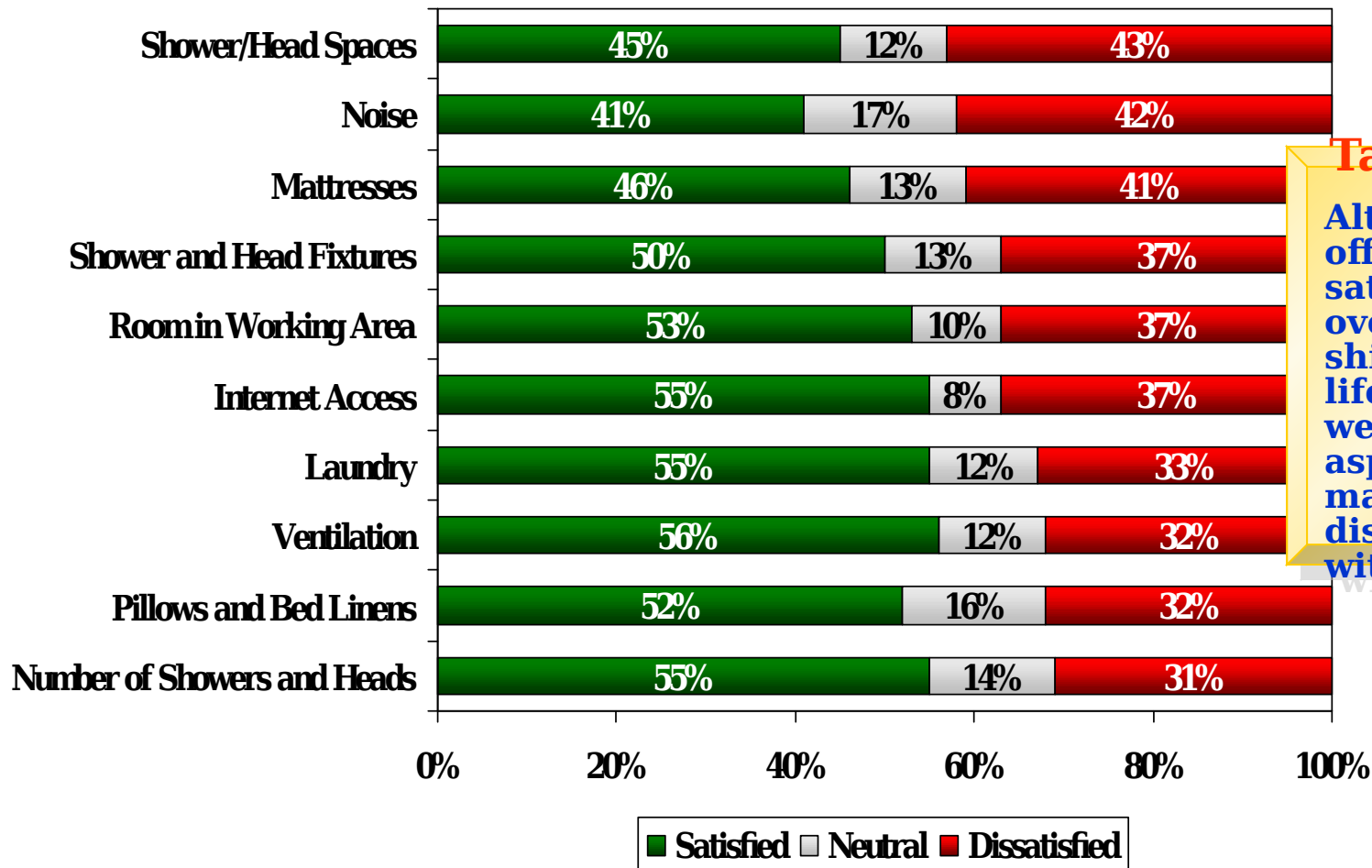


**Take  
Away**

Feelings of belonging combined with a feeling of accomplishment appear to drive overall satisfaction with shipboard life.

# Officers: Most *Dissatisfying* Aspects of Shipboard Life

NPRST



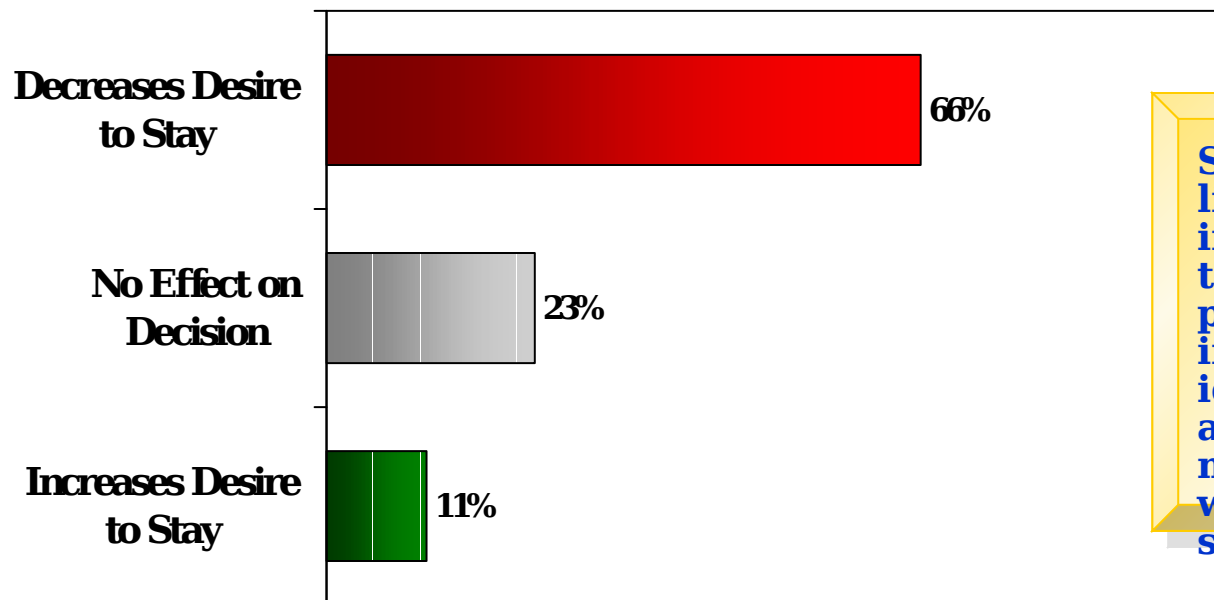
## Take Away

Although officers were satisfied overall with shipboard life, there were specific aspects that many were dissatisfied with.

# Enlisted in First Enlistment/Extension: Impact of Shipboard Life

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"What impact does shipboard life have on your desire to stay in the Navy?"



## Take Away

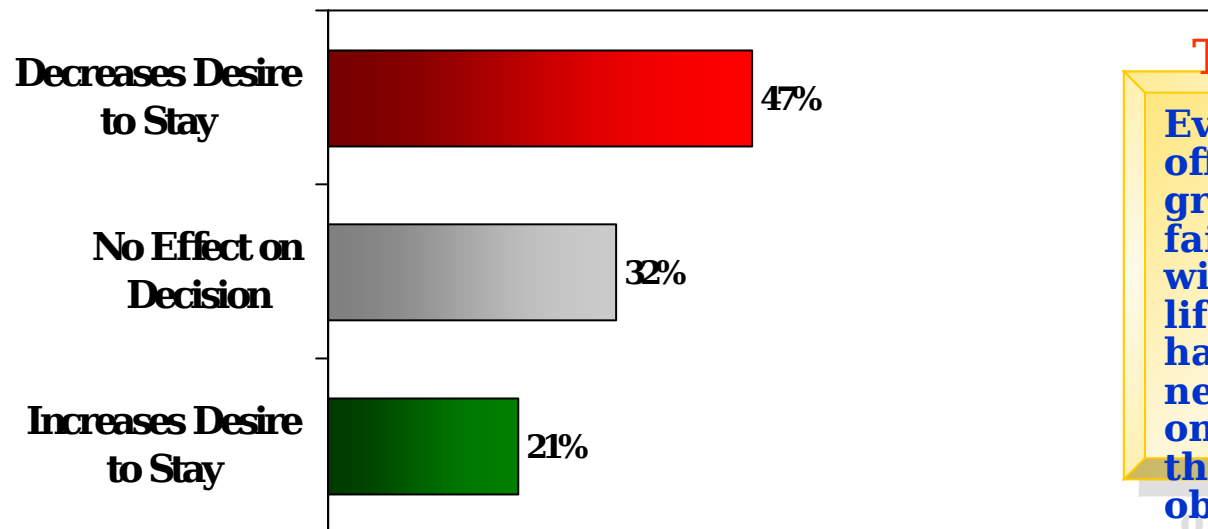
Since shipboard life had a negative impact on first-termers' retention plans, it is important to identify the aspects they were most dissatisfied with (see next slide).



# Officers in Initial Obligation/Extension: Impact of Shipboard Life

NPRST

**"What impact does shipboard life have on your desire to stay in the Navy?"**



## Take Away

Even though officers, as a group, were fairly satisfied with shipboard life, it was having a negative impact on officers in their first obligation.

# Summary: Good News

- **A majority of:**

**Senior enlisted and officers were satisfied with shipboard life**

**Officers were satisfied with physical environment, services, and opportunities to satisfy social needs**

**Enlisted were satisfied with specific aspects of shipboard life, such as:**

- **Safe conditions aboard ship**
- **Opportunity to feel part of a work team or division**
- **Opportunity to get together with friends aboard ship**

## Summary: Areas for Improvement

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- **Shipboard life was rated the lowest of the professional/worked-related areas**
- **Substantial numbers of Sailors were dissatisfied with shipboard life regardless of platform**
- **Sailors were most dissatisfied with berthing and heads and showers**
- **Shipboard life decreases desire to stay in Navy for many junior enlisted and officers**

# Recommendations

- **Where possible, address the aspects Sailors were dissatisfied with as a way of increasing QOL and retention, such as:**

**Room in berthing area**

**Shower/head spaces**

**Shower/head fixtures**

**Laundry**

**Noise**



- **Conduct periodic follow-up assessments/surveys to evaluate impact of design changes on Shipboard QOL**
- **Construct a shipboard habitability decision support system to aid program managers**

# **Point of Contact on Presentation and Survey**

**NPRST**

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